5 steps to SAVING MONEY and STAYING SAFE from COUNTERFEIT DRUGS

1. Find out about assistance programs.
Many drug companies offer qualifying patients access to low cost or free medications. Check with your provider about supports available to you. You can also find these patient-assistance programs online at www.needymeds.com and www.pparx.com.

2. Discuss the price and alternatives to medication with your doctor or pharmacist.
When you are prescribed medication, ask what the price is. If you will have problems affording it, talk to your doctor or pharmacist about an alternative or generic medication that might cost less.

3. Keep a record of the medication you’re taking.
Be an informed patient. Understand the medications you’re taking and why. Record the name and lot number of the product you are given, or take a photo with your camera phone. If there is a question later about the medication or a concern that you got the right one, you will have a record.

4. Comparison shop for medication.
You can comparison shop around town for medication using websites and mobile apps such as WeRX.com, LowestMeds.com, and GoodRX.com. Remember to make sure your pharmacist knows all the medications and supplements you’re taking.

5. Comparison shop online.
You can also look online at US-licensed pharmacies to find competitive prices on medication. Safe online pharmacies are licensed with the VIPPS logo. You can find a list of licensed online pharmacies at http://safedr.ug/vipps-rx. Make sure your local pharmacist knows all the medications you’re taking to watch for drug interactions.

Learn more about medicine safety from The Partnership for Safe Medicines.